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The situation in the Middle East

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Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 16 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

The Lebanese Government reiterates that it has implemented all of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) from the moment that the resolution was adopted. The Government once again calls on the international community to put pressure on Israel and compel it to implement fully that resolution.

Meanwhile, we have recently witnessed a campaign of allegations and slanders and a barrage of grave threats made by Israel against Lebanon, along with blatant attempts to terrorize the Lebanese people.

Over the past few weeks, senior Israeli officials, such as the Minister of Intelligence, Yisrael Katz, and the Minister of Defence, Avigdor Lieberman, have made grave threats against my country and its civilian installations. The latest such threat was made by the Israeli Minister of Education, Naftali Bennett, on 13 March 2017 in a statement to the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*. He said that when a new war with Lebanon occurs, Israel should carry out a massive attack against civilian installations, alongside ground and air military action. He added that Israel should target Lebanese institutions, infrastructure, the airport, power stations and traffic junctions, as well as Lebanese Army bases, and send Lebanon back to the Middle Ages (sic).

Lebanon believes that is imperative to condemn in the strongest terms and without delay the escalating threats made by Israel. Those threats should subsequently be highlighted in the periodic reports on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and categorically denounced, because they threaten to undermine the tranquillity that Lebanon strives so hard to maintain along its

southern border, and because they present a clear threat to security and peace in the region and, consequently, throughout the world.

Needless to say, those threats are a flagrant violation of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations, which provides that all States shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. They are also blatantly contrary to the principles and provisions of international law, international humanitarian law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Since the adoption of resolution 1701 (2006), this Mission has regularly transmitted letters of complaint to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council drawing attention to the ongoing failure by Israel to fulfil its obligations pursuant to that resolution. For example, in addition to making repeated threats, in the previous year alone, Israel violated the sovereignty of Lebanon 535 times by air, 157 times by land and 388 times by sea. All of those violations were documented in 15 letters of complaint. Since the start of the current year, Israel has violated the sovereignty of Lebanon repeatedly: 53 times by air, 10 times by land and 16 times by sea. We have documented those violations in three letters of complaint addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council. At our request, those letters were all issued as documents of the United Nations. Moreover, in his periodic reports, the Secretary-General has documented Israel's ongoing occupation of northern Ghajar and surrounding areas, in flagrant violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and the sovereignty of Lebanon, as well as Israel's occupation of the Shab'a Farms and the Kafr Shuba hills.

I ask Your Excellency to take every measure necessary to deter Israel from continuing to make grave threats against the security of my country and the safety of its people and its civil and official institutions, and from committing serious violations of my country's sovereignty, and to compel Israel to implement all the provisions of resolution 1701 (2006).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative